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storage medium means on said supporting card in which information can be written; and

a state-designating conductive member provided on a surface of the supporting card designating a state of said storage medium means in which writing information to the storage medium means is permitted or prohibited, wherein a write-permitting or a write-inhibiting signal is produced by virtue of a presence of said state-designating conductive member, and wherein the produced write-permitting or write-inhibiting signal identifies a state of the storage medium means.

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8. (Twice Amended) An information storage apparatus comprising:

a storage medium in which information can be written; and
a support member incorporating said storage medium, the support member having a first portion on a main surface thereof where an external connection terminal electrically connected to said storage medium is provided, and a second portion on said main surface, where a state-designating member for designating a state in which writing of information to the storage medium is prohibited is provided, and wherein [a write-permitting or] a write-inhibiting signal is produced by virtue of a presence of said state-designating member, and wherein the produced write-inhibiting signal identifies a state of the storage medium.

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18. (Twice Amended) An information storage apparatus comprising:

a storage medium in which information can be written; and
a support member incorporating said storage medium, the support member having a first portion on a main surface thereof where an external connection terminal electrically connected to